



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/658,291	09/10/2003	Naoyuki Tamura	648.41957CX1	2459

20457 7590 10/19/2005

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP
1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET
SUITE 1800
ARLINGTON, VA 22209-3873

EXAMINER

MOORE, KARLA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1763

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/658,291

Applicant(s)

TAMURA, NAOYUKI

Examiner

Karla Moore

Art Unit

1763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/218,406.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 1763

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,198,976 to Sundar et al.

3. Sundar et al. disclose a vacuum processing method for transferring a wafer in atmospheric air to a predetermined position within a vacuum processing chamber (Figure 2B, 114) using a atmospheric equipment (128) disposed in an atmospheric transfer unit (120) and performing a predetermined treatment to said wafer in said vacuum processing chamber; said method comprising: an atmospheric transfer step (column 12, rows 50-54 and rows 58-60) of transferring said wafer in atmospheric air to a said vacuum transfer chamber (112) using an atmospheric transfer equipment disposed in atmospheric air; a vacuum transfer step (column 12, rows 60-63) of transferring a wafer received from said atmospheric transfer equipment to a position for said predetermined treatment within said vacuum processing chamber using vacuum transfer equipment (116) disposed within said vacuum transfer chamber connecting said atmospheric transfer unit and said vacuum processing chamber; a step of detecting the displacement of said wafer (column 12, rows 63-65) in a transverse direction (the displacement can be detected while moving any direction) with respect to a traveling direction near an ingress path of said wafer to said vacuum processing chamber by comparing a correct position said wafer passing a line which is predetermined in advance with an actual position of said wafer being transferred by said vacuum transfer equipment; and a step of moving a vacuum robot of said vacuum transfer equipment (column 6, rows 27-38) which transfers said wafer in the transverse direction with respect to the traveling direction as to correct the detected displacement of the wafer (or a step of correcting the displacement of said wafer by moving an arm of said vacuum transfer equipment in the transverse

Art Unit: 1763

direction with respect to the traveling direction based on the result of detection performed by a wafer position sensor, which is commensurate with the prior step).

4. With respect to claim 7/5 and 7/6, said step of detecting the displacement of said wafer comprises a step of detecting the rim position of said wafer being transferred in the vacuum transfer step (column 5, rows 1-3).

5. With respect to claim 8/5 and 8/6, initial positioning of said wafer is performed in atmosphere (), and the displacement of said wafer is detected directly before the processing within said vacuum processing chamber (column 11, rows 1-18).

Response to Arguments

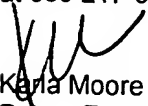
6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 5-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. New art has been relied upon to account for the amended claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karla Moore whose telephone number is 571.272.1440. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Parviz Hassanzadeh can be reached on 571.272.1435. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Karla Moore
Patent Examiner
17 October 2005